

[8 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Hundred percent FDI in tourism

1956. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of **TOURISM AND CULTURE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have opened up the skies and agreed to 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment in tourism;

(b) whether the capital would host the 51st Pacific Asia Travel Association conference next year; and

(c) if so, to what extent these steps are likely to boost the tourism prospects in India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Traffic right with respect of Civil Aviation is governed by the principle of reciprocity and bilateral agreements which is an internationally accepted practice followed the world over. Regarding Direct Foreign Investment in tourism, Government has decided to allow 100% FDI.

(b) Yes, Sir. The 51st Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Annual Conference in April 2002 is scheduled to be held in Delhi.

(c) Hosting of the PATA Annual Conference is likely to give a boost to the tourism prospects in the country by showcasing the tourism attractions of India to the members of International Travel Industry who are expected to participate as delegates in the Conference.

Providing Status of an Industry to Indian Tourism

1957. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of **TOURISM AND CULTURE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had formulated any comprehensive policy to give status of industry to Indian tourism so as to mobilize the maximum financial resources in this sector;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.